

FIELD TRIPS: THE INSPIRATION

Fire can be **mysterious**, sometimes dangerous and destructive, but also **beautiful and restorative**. It often plays an important role in the **natural progression** of ecosystems.

The **Alaska Fire Science Consortium** and **Bonanza Creek LTER** coordinated four field trips for participating artists, offering a behind-the-scenes look at what happens when a fire occurs, how scientific information is used in management decisions, and the many facets behind long-term ecological disturbance studies.

Denali National Park & Preserve: Artists spent a day with a fire ecologist and an assistant fire management officer exploring, studying and interpreting the 2002 Horseshoe Lake Fire; analyzing plant succession and discussing the complexities of **wildfire** in Alaska.

(Photo by Sean Proctor)



Fire Simulation: Artists joined fire personnel for a fire simulation training exercise at Chena Lakes with various fire fighter groups and equipment, demonstrating smoke jumping, cargo and water drops and other elements of **aerial fire suppression**.

(Photos by Amanda Ellis)

“Fire is not all about destruction. It is also a natural part of our ecosystem.” -Mary Beth Leigh, BNZ LTER

Management Facilities:

BLM-Alaska Fire Service coordinated a tour of its facilities: Alaska Interagency Joint Information Center, Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, the Fire Management Zones, equipment warehouse and smoke jumper operations.



Long Term Ecological Research Station:

Artists accompanied scientists working with Bonanza Creek LTER and

UAF to the Rosie Creek Fire Study Area where ecologists have been studying **28 years of forest succession**. (Photos by Glenn Juday)



Alaska Fire Science Consortium www.frames.gov/afsc/artoffire



UAF is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.

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